

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 61, January 18, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

STEWARDS AND MODERATORS' OPEN FORUM – THIS SUNDAY, RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP

Immediately following the worship service **this Sunday, January 21**, our Church Stewards will present the proposed 2018 annual budget and take questions. The budget review will be followed by a presentation and discussion of the findings of the Facilities Condition Assessment Plan (FCAP), nearly complete, and next steps, including the proposed preparation of a Church Master Plan. Please make it a point to participate in this important discussion.

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

The members of the First Congregational Church in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, qualified to vote, are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at approximately 11:00 AM, immediately following the Sunday worship service, to act upon the following articles:

Article I. To choose, if necessary, a chairperson to preside over said meeting.

Article II. To hear and act upon the reports of the clerk, treasurer, auditors, Church Council, Spiritual Care Support Board/Board of Deacons, Stewards Support Board, and of such other officers and governing bodies as may be present.

Article III. To elect a moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and such other officers and members of governing bodies as the Church may require for the ensuing year.

Article IV. To hear and discuss 1) a report summarizing the findings and recommendations included in the 2018 Facilities Condition Assessment Plan prepared for the Church by Colliers International (the 2018 FCAP Report), 2) the merits of engaging an architect to assist the Church with the preparation of a Master Plan, and 3) other matters related to ongoing stewardship of the Church's physical plant including, but not limited to, funding of future spending on the church and Parish House to come from the above.

Article V. To review and act upon the Budget for the Church for the coming year, as presented by the Stewards Support Board and supported by Church Council, to meet the expenses, the benevolences and any indebtedness of the Church, with funds to be raised as indicated.

Article VI. To transact any other business not included in the above which may legally come before the meeting.

Richard J. Sweeting, Clerk

TRANSITIONING TO ANNUAL MEETING

General Instructions

- 1) Copies of this year's Annual Report are available in the North and South Narthices, in the foyer just outside the Reception Room, and on the rectory table in the North Mezzanine of the Assembly Room. Please share with those sitting beside you.
- 2) The materials which will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting itself are in white envelopes at the end of each of the pews in the four front sections of the Sanctuary – under the Fellowship Pads. At the end of the Worship Service, please take an envelope if you will be staying for the Annual Meeting.
- 3) The service will be shortened to accommodate those who have after-church commitments. We strongly encourage you to stay for the Annual Meeting.
- 4) Childcare will be provided during the meeting in the Nursery and on the 3rd floor.
- 5) We will not have a "regular" Community Hour, but coffee and tea will be available in the Board Room. You will have about five minutes to get your coffee. Please enter the Boardroom through the rear of the Sanctuary and exit through the door to the Narthex. Please bring your coffee or tea with you into the Sanctuary – and to avoid spills in the Sanctuary, please be sure to use one of the coffee cup lids provided.
- 6) When the Moderator calls for you to return to your seat, please do so promptly. We will need to perform a count for a quorum, and we need people in their seats to do so. We will also want people to move forward in the Sanctuary, if possible.
- 7) The meeting will begin when the quorum has been counted and confirmed.

Annual Meeting Procedural Guidelines

- 1) Only members are allowed to vote. Friends of the church are welcome to listen in and participate by speaking. You may sit anywhere.
- 2) The meeting agenda is the Call to the Annual Meeting – reprinted above.
- 3) Each agenda item will be brought to the floor by the Moderator, who will ask for the appropriate person—generally, the committee chair—to make a motion. That motion will be seconded, and then we will have discussion. Generally, the person who made the motion, or a designee, will speak first.
- 4) If you wish to speak to a particular agenda item, you may contact the Moderator in advance, and she will make sure that you are given time to speak.
- 5) Raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak. Before speaking, wait for an usher to deliver a microphone to you. Tell us your name—even if everybody knows you. Speakers should be direct, and to-the-point.
- 6) When all who wish to be heard have been heard, or a motion to "move the question" has been made and passed, we will have a voice vote.

HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET?

If you have not yet submitted your 2018 pledge, please take a minute to complete your pledge card and mail it back to the church today. Thank you.

SOUP’S ON! – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, RIGHT AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Parish Life would like to invite all WHCC worshipers to its inaugural **"Souper Bowl" on Sunday, February 4 following the 10:00 a.m. service.** This event is a continuation of the communion ritual and will include soup, bread and a chance for us all to enjoy each other's company over a simple meal. All are invited from the youngest to our most senior worshipers, vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. And don't worry. All will be home in plenty of time to share in the frenzy of the "Other Super Bowl" taking place on the 4th.



FAMILY PROMISE NEWS, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – AND A VERY BIG “THANK YOU”

The Family Promise team thanks all of the wonderful volunteers who helped during our hosting in December! You helped make the lives of four busy families much more comfortable.

Please mark your calendars for our 2018 hostings:

- February 25 – March 4
- May 20 – 27
- September 9 – 16
- December 23 – 30 (We will have help from other congregations.)

Some volunteer positions require training. Information about upcoming training sessions follows. All classes start at 7:00 p.m. and typically finish around 8:30.

First Parish UU	24 Vernon St., Framingham	Thursday, January 18	kkcanning@comcast.net
Peace Lutheran	107 Concord Rd., Wayland	Tuesday, February 6	kkcanning@comcast.net
Newton Highlands CC	54 Lincoln St., Newton	Thursday, February 22	
UU Area Church	11 Washington St., Sherborn	Tuesday, March 6	
TBD		Thursday, March 22	kkcanning@comcast.net
The Dover Church	17 Springdale Ave., Dover	Tuesday, April 3	
UU Wellesley Hills	309 Washington St, Wellesley	Thursday, April 19	

Please contact Tricia Frank at pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge at nadodge@me.com with any questions.

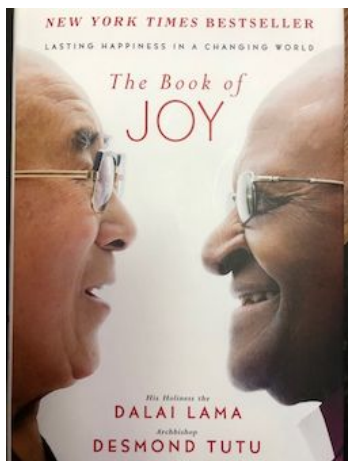
BIBLE AND THE NEWS



A Weekly Study with Rev. Matt Wooster
 Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Church Library
 Discussion on how the scriptures relate to the news of the day and the news of our lives. Each week will be stand-alone discussion of the Biblical passages to be read in worship. Come every week or

drop in when you can.

**A SPECIAL BOOK GROUP KICKS OFF ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 30
FOLLOWED BY THIS YEAR'S LENTEN STUDY GROUPS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 13**



The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World
By His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

How can we live with joy in the face of life's inevitable sorrows? Through their personal stories, teachings and the science of joy, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu reflect on how "they have been able to discover a level of peace, of courage, and of joy to which we can all aspire in our own lives."

Please join us as we reflect on this book in two ways:

Part I: An exploration of the insights from *The Book of Joy* January 30 and on February 6 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the church library, co-facilitated by Rev. Judy Swahnberg and Mary Hill Canavan

Part II: Embarking together on a Lenten Journey

We will put the teachings of the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu to practice using their Spiritual "Joy" Practices for "developing mental immunity" as our framework. Each weekly session will encourage trying out different spiritual practices: lectio divina, tonglen, walking meditations, haiku walking, silent retreat, centering prayer, etc. We will encourage each other to carry over the practice into the rest of the week, and also to share our own experiences: what works, what's hard, what's healing, what insights we have.

There will be six spiritual practice sessions during Lent – **Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

**February 13 (Ash Wednesday "Eve")
February 20
February 27
March 6
March 13
March 20**

All are welcome to participate. You may just attend the book group discussion or continue with us through Lent as we embark with intentionality to make more room for awareness of God in our lives.

Questions? Email Judy: judy@hillschurch.org or Mary: mhillcanavan@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION

The church is collecting children's books throughout the month of February for the benefit of The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center.

www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm

The books are given to the children when they are receiving treatments or when waiting for a sibling. This picture was taken after our donation last year.



Collection bins will be inside the church entrances for your new and gently used children's books. Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net

PLEASE CONSIDER TEACHING DURING THE WINTER OR SPRING MONTHS

We need teachers in 2018. Please consider teaching our children about God.

- Are you new to the church and are unsure about what to do? We train and support you!
- Are your children grown up? Then please come share your well-earned knowledge.

Each Sunday we need twelve volunteers to run the school, could you be one?

- Cuddle a new born
- Sing with the Under 5's
- Grow with a Kindergartner
- Discover with an elementary school age child
- Mentor a pre-teen

Sign up sheets are available on each Church School floor. For more information, please contact: Sally Tomasetti - sallyt@hillschurch.org or visit the church website.

USHERING IS A GREAT WAY TO SERVE YOUR CHURCH

The mission of the Ushering Committee is to provide a staff of ushers who serve and support the Congregation before, during and after the worship service each week. To paraphrase a quote from Rev. Lacy Scott, "An usher ... is so much more than a seat finder. They are the meeters and greeters to our service ... the people who meet our guests and our members alike on a person-to-person basis when they first arrive at church. They are the ones whose smiles and warm welcomes help to set the tone for our worship." To volunteer, please contact Rich Sweeting – rich@sweeting.us.

NOW IS A PERFECT TIME TO JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!

If you have ever played a musical instrument and can follow the notes on a piece of music, consider giving bell ringing a try. The bell group would welcome high school and middle school students, and adults alike. We will provide introductory lessons to anyone who is interested. To learn more about The Hills Bells, please contact Martha Stowell at cpbranwell@gmail.com or the Church Office.



SHARE YOUR GIFT OF HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME



Consider sharing your gift of hospitality and welcome by volunteering to help! Five or six people are needed each week to ensure that each Sunday there are beverages, pastries and fruit waiting for our members and guests to enjoy after worship – while they catch up with friends (old and new).

The Community Hour Ministry Team already has a Team Leader in place for each week – to guide, help or train anyone interested in helping – and is seeking volunteers to fill out each of its weekly team rosters. Call or e-mail Anne Leland for more information or to volunteer - 617-669-6512 or akoteen@gmail.com.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 18

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, January 19 – CityReach Mission Trip

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 20

- 9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion

SUNDAY, January 21

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Handbell Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Stewards and Moderators' Open Forum – 2018 Budget/2018 FCAP Report
- 11:30 a.m. Inquirers' Gathering
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group, with Confirmation Class
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 22

TUESDAY, January 23

- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

WEDNESDAY, January 24

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 25

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, January 26

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Connections (at the home of Judy Swahnberg – 29 Kenilworth in Wellesley)

SATURDAY, January 27

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
Psalm 62:5-8
Mark 1:14-20

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Next Sunday, January 28
WHCC 2017 Annual Meeting
Right after the Worship Service

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH GROUP: PAIN INTO POWER – JANUARY 21, 28, AND FEBRUARY 4



Life can often be a difficult journey. Sometimes it's difficult because of the choices we've made, but other times it's difficult because of circumstances beyond our control. By studying the book of Exodus and the stories of Moses and the Israelites, we'll look at how God can turn our pain into progress by **growing us, preparing us, and uniting us.**

CITYREACH: JANUARY 19-20.

CityReach gives young people the opportunity to learn first hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection. Open to grades 9 and up (including up to two adults!).

HONDURAS HOPE

June 2018 - Date to be determined by chosen participants.

Join our partner community in building, painting, teaching, and learning about culture, faith, and development. Mission Trip applications are required of youth participants and adult mentors.

SAVE THE DATE: SPRING RETREAT

June 1-3 @ Craigville Center, Cape Cod
Grades 7-12



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING YOUTH LEADERSHIP INTERNS!

Looking for something awesome to put on your college application? Want to make church a better place to be and bring your friends to? Apply now to be a Youth Leadership Intern. This is a 4-ish hour per week commitment.

Here are the basics:

- Come to church
- Help plan youth group and special events
- Help get other folks there
- Grow as a person

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS AND EVENTS

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The choir meets every Sunday after worship in the Third Floor Youth Chapel. All ages grades K + are welcome. Contact Kirsten Oberoi, Music Coordinator for Children and Youth, for more information.

CHILDREN'S BELLS

If you have a child interested in playing Bells, please contact Martha Stowell – cpbranwell@gmail.com.

The Children's Handbell Choir meets at 9:15 every Sunday morning in the Third Floor Youth Chapel.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER IMMEDIATE NEEDS

"The children of the church need you..."

We are recruiting Church School teachers for the Spring months. There are many spots to fill. Thank you to the many people who have already volunteered.

As of today, we still need the following:

- 3 volunteers in February
- 7 volunteers in March
- 4 volunteers in April
- 10 volunteers in May

The church school depends on the whole congregation to run, and we need your help.

There are several easy ways to sign up:

- Email Sally Tomasetti - sallyt@hillschurch.org or visit the teacher sign up genius.
- Go to the church school sign-up table at community hour and write your name in the spreadsheet